

43rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

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Jorgensen: Democrats, Seniors Claim Win as SeniorCare is Saved

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MADISON –Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair and State Representative Andy Jorgensen (D-Milton) today claimed victory for the tens of thousands of Wisconsinites who've fought to save SeniorCare, after members of the powerful budget-writing Joint Finance Committee announced they'd approve a plan continuing the discount prescription drug program "as is," without increases in co-payments or annual fees, as Republican leaders recently suggested.

"SeniorCare saves lives and it saves money," said Jorgensen. "Governor Walker might not understand its value, but the people of Wisconsin sure do and we made their voices heard loud and clear in our Capitol."

Democrats delivered more than 14,000 signatures to Republican leaders as part of a Save SeniorCare petition drive, after Governor Scott Walker proposed defunding the program and pushing enrollees onto Medicare Part D. Governor Walker first tried to kill SeniorCare in his 2011 budget, a proposal that was also met with great public opposition.

Serving 90,000 Wisconsinites, SeniorCare saves participants hundreds of dollars each year and, through its successful negotiation with drug companies, saves taxpayers \$90 million each year.

"It's really sad, that we'd have to fight so hard for something like SeniorCare," said Jorgensen. "But, we pounded the pavement and did the work that had to be done, and together, I'm proud to say we made a difference."

Jorgensen now encourages people to continue contacting their legislators, sharing other concerns over the Republican budget.

"Today, I'm thrilled to see SeniorCare saved, but this is no time to rest. Republicans have just concocted a plan to take \$48 million from our public schools, shifting the money to the private, unaccountable voucher program. They plan to cut \$300 million from our universities. Their corporate tax breaks are failing to create jobs and costing taxpayers an arm-and-a-leg," said Jorgensen. "No, we cannot rest. Our work is far from done."

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